

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 02017 182131Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 INRE-00
DOEE-00 SSO-00 /112 W
-----052070 182145Z /66

O 182021Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4978
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2017

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, TECH, MNUC, AR
SUBJECT: U.S.-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR POLICIES: MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD TLATELOLCO

REF: STATE 59082

1. SCIENCE COUNSELOR MET MARCH 16 WITH AMBASSADOR
ALBERTO ORTIZ DE RIZAS, PRESIDENT OF THE U.N. PREPARATORY
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION AND ADVISOR ON DISARMAMENT AND
ATOMIC ENERGY MATTERS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IN A
DISCUSSION ON THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR ARGENTINA CON-
CERNING THE US NON-PROLIFERATION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW
ON MARCH 10 BY THE PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS
OBSERVED THIS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE A RENEGOTIATED
US-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR TREATY TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH
NEW LEGISLATION. SCIENCE COUNSELOR MENTIONED THAT, OVER
THE NEXT TWO YEARS, US WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE NEW
ELEMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE NUCLEAR SUPPLY
TREATIES. THE CRITERIA THAT WOULD BE APPLIED IN THE
NEW LEGISLATION FOR ARGENTINA OR ANY IMPORTING COUNTRY OF US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 02017 182131Z

NUCLEAR EXPORTS, ESPECIALLY THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE IAEA
FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WITHIN 24 MONTHS, WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

2. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS INDICATED THAT ARGENTINA WAS CERTAINLY
FULLY BEHIND THE U.S. EFFORT FOR NON-PROLIFERATION AND
WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL
CYCLE EVALUATION. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA WILL RATIFY THE

TREATY OF TLATELOLCO VERY SOON SINCE THIS HAS BEEN ARGENTINE POLICY AS FAR BACK AS 1972; BUT POLITICS OR ONE THING OR THE OTHER HAVE DELAYED THE RATIFICATION. ORTIZ DE ROZAS EXPLAINED THAT ARGENTINA'S DECISION TO RATIFY TLATELOLCO, AS DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE, IS NOT BASED ON A QUID PRO QUO THAT THE US RATIFY PROTOCOL I. HE HOPES THAT THIS WAS NOT VIEWED BY THE US AS A CONDITION FOR ARGENTINE RATIFICATION. HOWEVER ORTIZ DE ROZAS STATED THAT ARGENTINA WILL RATIFY TLATELOLCO UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS BRAZIL AND CHILE - I.E. ARGENTINA WOULD NOT SUBMIT A DECLARATION OF WAIVER OF ARTICLE 28, PARAGRAPH 2. IN REGARD TO PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, ARGENTINA, IN THE PAST, HAS MAINTAINED THAT ARTICLE 18 OF THE TREATY PROVIDES FOR EXPLOSION OF NUCLEAR DEVICES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO REALIZE THE PROLIFERATION PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THIS ARTICLE AND FEEL THIS MAY REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION, PARTICULARLY WITH BRAZIL.

3. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS EXPLAINED THAT THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO BY ARGENTINA SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER QUIET CIRCUMSTANCES. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, IT APPEARED IN THE PRESS THAT ARGENTINA WAS BEING PRESSURED BY THE U.S. TO SIGN, THIS WOULD SET BACK RATIFICATION AT LEAST A YEAR BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC OPINION ASPECTS. HE FEELS THAT THE OTHER PROBLEMS WITH US RELATING TO FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AND REPROCESSING ARE NOT INSOLVABLE AND TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 02017 182131Z

CAN BE FOUND.

4. ACCORDING TO ORTIZ DE RIZAS, THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO DISARMAMENT AND ATOMIC ENERGY MATTERS ARE REGIONAL. ONE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY COULD NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER HAVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS; CONSEQUENTLY, THE ENTIRE AREA MUST BE KEPT A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. DISARMAMENT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THIS WAS INDIA'S PROBLEM. THEY DEVELOPED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE BECAUSE THEY WERE OBSESSED BY CHINA AND PAKISTAN. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE LITTLE ARGENTINA COULD DO EXCEPT RELY ON THE US NUCLEAR SHIELD IF THE USSR DECIDED TO SPRAY NUCLEAR BOMBS ON SOUTH AMERICA, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT REGIONAL BALANCES.

5. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE RIZAS EXPLAINED THAT THE NPT PROVIDED THAT NON-NUCLEAR STATES MUST ACCEPT IAEA SAFEGUARES, WHICH COULD PLACE THEM AT A COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISADVANTAGE IN DEVELOPING THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM. THIS COULD BE AN ISSUE IN THEIR (ARGENTINA'S) SALES AGREEMENTS WITH PERU TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR MATERIAL. IN ADDITION, THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE NON-NUCLEAR STATES THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY MOVING TOWARD

REDUCING THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS. IN THIS REGARD WE HOPE THAT THE SALT TALKS WOULD MOVE MORE RAPIDLY.

6. SCIENCE COUSELOR BROUGHT UP THE SELLECK CASE (REFTEL) AND EXPLAINED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RATIONALE AS TO WHY ARGENTINA DISAPPROVED OF SELLECK AS AN INTERNATIONAL INSPECTOR. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS SAID HE WAS NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE, BUT FELT THAT THE DECISION WAS PROBABLY MADE NOT AS A POLICY AGAINST THE U.S., BUT THE GOA FELT THAT THIS PARTICULAR POSITION SHOULD BE FILLED BY AN INSPECTOR FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. HOWEVER, CNEA MADE THE DECISION ON THIS MATTER.

7. COMMENTS: SCICOUNS WILL DISCUSS THE SELLECK CASE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUENOS 02017 182131Z

FURTHER WITH CNEA. EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING HINTS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT ARGENTINA IS MOVING TOWARD EITHER THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO OR ACCEPTING FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, OR BOTH. IN ADDITION TO ORTIZ DE ROZAS, THIS VIEW HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN MESSAGES OF CONVERSATION WITH GOVT OFFICIALS SUCH AS DEPUTY HEAD OF CNEA, JORGE COLL, AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

8. ADMIRAL CASTRO MADERO HAS ALSO BEEN LEANING IN THIS DIRECTION SINCE HIS RETURN FROM VIENNA THREE WEEKS AGO, AS CONDITIONAL IF ARGENTINA WANTS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN EVIDENCED BY THE INTELLIGENCE REPORTING. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17, EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER WAS TOLD BY ADM. MASSERA THAT THE NAVY WOULD APPROVE THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO (SEE SEPTTEL)

9. IN ADDITION, THE NEW CANADIAN AMB DWIGHT FULLFORD TOLD SCI COUNS ON MARCH 17 THAT HE FELT THE GOA WOULD ACCEPT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AND CONTINUE WITH THE CANDU LINE REACTOR, AT LEAST AT ATUCHA 2, SINCE THE GERMANS WOULD NOT SUPPLY THEM WITH A COMPLETE FUEL CYCLE AS IN THE CASE OF BRAZIL.
CASTRO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, TREATY OF TLATELOLCO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS02017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0175
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabrod.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93a37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 59082
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR POLICIES: MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD TLATELOLCO
TAGS: PARM, TECH, MNUC, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93a37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014